

in our other health plans and health care Medicaid, somewhere in the range of 9 to 23. Remember there are only 9 federally mandated, we do 23, more than any state. Let's set the first example here by not having massive increases but by getting some control. So I would urge you to reject the committee amendments. You are talking several million dollars now and multimillions every year in the future.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Shirley Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Speaker Nichol. Members of the Legislature, I, too, am very interested in looking at the handout for Senator Wesely has brought us valid information. It has been processed through the Appropriations Committee. I voted for the committee amendments for several reasons. One is, it is a lower increase than the Governor's plan for this year but I hasten to add the Governor's plan in the long run is a better plan. We are saving dollars this year but the change will have to come sometime. You do have to consider what you receive for the dollars expended and there must be some kind of a measurable trade-off when you are asking employees to suddenly pick up a large number of extra dollars out of their paycheck in order to secure the health coverage for the employee and the family in many, many instances. The amended 880 with the committee amendments is a "keep in place for one more year" for an additional time period so that we are not expending as many dollars as the Governor's proposal would cost but remember someone is going to be paying those costs and if you go as Senator Wesely has suggested, the someones will be our state employees, the state employees who are paid less in many instances than the comparable category of job classification in private industry, certainly less than the private industry which has had dental coverage for a number of years. I support the committee action for this year. I will be supporting Senator Wesely's leadership, interest and concern for the future strictly on a dollar look this year. We were looking for places to cut dollars but not at the added expense, out of pocket expense for state employees. The committee takes the middle conservative line. That is the direction I will be casting my vote. I hope you will be following Senator Warner's leadership in this issue.